

May 4, 1961

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today issued an Executive Order establishing the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

Today's order reactivates, under broadened terms of reference, the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities which was established by President Eisenhower in 1956, following a recommendation of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government. New appointments are being made to the Board because the resignations of the members of the prior Board of Consultants were submitted to and accepted by President Eisenhower before he left office.

Composed of able and experienced individuals from outside the Government, the reactivated Board will be responsible for conducting an objective, independent review of the foreign intelligence and related activities of the Government and for reporting periodically to the President with respect to its assessment of the objectives and performance of those activities by the Central Intelligence Agency and the several additional civilian and military agencies engaged therein.

The responsibilities assigned to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board are of a continuing nature and encompass the total U. S. foreign intelligence effort. They are to be distinguished from the ad hoc and much more limited study that is presently being made by General Maxwell Taylor.

The members of the Board in whose qualification and discretion the President has the fullest confidence are as follows:

Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., Chairman
Chairman of the Corporation
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dr. William C. Baker
Vice President, Research
Bell Telephone Laboratories
Murray Hill, New Jersey

Lt. General James H. Doolittle, USAF (Ret.)
Chairman of the Board
Space Technology Laboratories, Inc.
Los Angeles, California

Dr. William L. Langer
Professor of History
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

The Honorable Robert D. Murphy
President
Corning Glass International
New York, N. Y.

General Maxwell Taylor, USA (Ret.)
President, Lincoln Center for the
Performing Arts, Incorporated
New York City, N. Y.

Mr. J. Patrick Coyne, former official of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Security Council, will continue to serve as Executive Secretary of the reactivated Board.

It is contemplated that in the near future the President may appoint additional individuals to membership on the Board.

The text of the Executive Order follows:

EXECUTIVE ORDER

ESTABLISHING THE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, it is ordered as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby established the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. The function of the Board shall be to advise the President with respect to the objectives and conduct of the foreign intelligence and related activities of the United States which are required in the interests of foreign policy and national defense and security.

Section 2. In the performance of its advisory duties, the Board shall conduct a continuing review and assessment of all functions of the Central Intelligence Agency, and of other executive departments and agencies having such or similar responsibilities in the foreign intelligence and related fields, and shall report thereon to the President each six months or more frequently as deemed appropriate. The Director of Central Intelligence and the heads of other departments and agencies concerned shall make available to the Board any information with respect to foreign intelligence matters which the Board may require for the purpose of carrying out its responsibilities to the President. The information so supplied to the Board shall be afforded requisite security protection as prescribed by the provisions of applicable laws and regulations.

Section 3. Members of the Board shall be appointed from among qualified persons outside the Government and shall receive such compensation and allowances, consonant with law, as may be prescribed hereafter. Such compensation and allowances and any other expenses arising in connection with the work of the Board shall be paid from the appropriation appearing under the heading "Special Projects" in title I of the General Government Matters Appropriation Act, 1961, 74 Stat. 473, and, to the extent permitted by law, from any corresponding appropriation which may be made for subsequent years. Such payments shall be made without regard to the provisions of section 3681 of the Revised Statutes and section 9 of the act of March 4, 1909, 35 Stat. 1027 (31 U.S.C. 672 and 673).

Section 4. Executive Order No. 10656 of February 6, 1956, is hereby revoked.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

THE WHITE HOUSE,

May 4, 1961.

more

(over)

The text of the letter from the President to the members of the Advisory Board follows:

Dear _____:

I am delighted that you have consented to serve as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board which is being reactivated pursuant to an Executive Order issued earlier today.

I am establishing this Board for the purpose of providing me periodically with independent evaluations of the objectives and conduct of U. S. foreign intelligence activities and of the performance of the several agencies engaged in foreign intelligence and related efforts.

It is my desire that the Board should meet periodically to analyze objectively the work of the Government's foreign intelligence agencies. While the review by the Board will be concerned with all U. S. foreign intelligence activities, I would expect particular attention to be devoted to the performance of those civilian and military intelligence elements of key importance to the Government in the fields of national security and foreign relations. I am especially anxious to obtain the Board's views as to the over-all conduct and progress of the foreign intelligence effort as well as its advice as to any modifications therein which would enhance the acquisition of intelligence essential to the policy making branches of the Government in the areas of national security and foreign relations.

It is my hope that you and the others whom I have invited to serve on the Board will be able to meet with me in the near future to discuss in detail the scope of the work which you have so generously agreed to undertake.

I know that you and your fellow Board members can make a real contribution to the national interest by your service with this body.

Sincerely,

JOHN F. KENNEDY

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